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a distinguished law teacher is given as to its demerits, and President Roosevelt is quoted to the same effect, after which Darrow is introduced in person to testify in his own behalf and acquit himself of any moral guilt. One could wish, at least, that the student who reads this had been given more definite information as to the author's own opinion.

Chapter V (pp. 208-238) is a well-planned symposium of the teachings of moralists and legal authors on the ethics of legal employment in general.

It is questionable whether it was worth while to incorporate in the work so many of the rules of etiquette in England, which are not followed here; such as (p. 243) the decision of the General Council of the English bar that a barrister should not permit his name to be printed in the annual reports of moneyed corporations, as legal adviser to the company, or its more recent pronouncement (p. 258) that a barrister should not also act as a managing director of such an organization.

It is always easier for an author to expand, than to condense. The main things to be considered by a student of legal ethics are much the same in every country, and they are not very numerous. They have been well codified for the United States by the American Bar Association. To understand a code, however, a certain measure of acquaintance with the materials out of which it has been constructed is both desirable and necessary. What shall be this measure? Here is room for a fair difference of opinion, but it is safe to say that for what is strictly classroom work in acquiring so vast a science as that of law, much of which must be meagerly treated for want of time, this book is too large. Its best use will be as an aid to a lawyer suddenly called upon to choose between two lines of professional action, one of which may lead downwards and the other upwards. It will help lawyers as a digest for ready reference, rather than law students as a piece of scientific exposition.

SIMEON E. BALDWIN.

Reasonableness and Legal Right of the Minimum Charge in Public Utility Services. By Samuel S. Wyer. Published by American Gas Institute, New York. 1916. Pp. 82.

A book which will give assurance that the numerous regulatory commissions at present empowered to regulate the rates of public utilities of the several states are gradually tending to

follow uniform and consistent policies, is of special interest and great significance at this time. The author gives this assurance in his discussion of the "Reasonableness and Legal Right of the Minimum Charge in Public Utilities Services." Although prepared for the District Court of Montgomery County, Independence, Kansas, in the consideration by the court of a case involving "the matter of devising an equitable rate schedule for the Kansas National Gas Company," it is still a most comprehensive presentation of the recognition by the courts and commissions of the country of the reasonableness and legality of the minimum charge.

The book describes briefly the fundamental principles upon which are based the usual charges designated to distribute equitably between consumers, the expenses resulting from the consumer's demand. It then presents in formidable array the "Adjudicated Monthly Monetary Allowances for Minimum Charges." And finally it submits in excellent compilation, "Non-adjudicated Minimum Charges in Existing Rate Schedules," thus setting forth the very general adoption of the minimum charge throughout the country.

Referring to the author's discussion of the fundamental theory of the minimum bill, it is to be regretted that he did not enter upon a more thorough discussion of this subject. A more complete discussion of these fundamental principles would have bestowed upon it recognition as a study and text on the subject of minimum charges. Public utility rate experts are more and more conceding the necessity of the "readiness-to-serve charge" as a provision in rate schedules. A discussion of the respective advantages of the latter over the minimum bill might well have been undertaken. But this subject has been left with merely a definition of each form of charge and with a statement that the public is more familiar with the "minimum charge." Again, it is noticed that the author reaches the conclusion that the "Monthly Basis for Minimum Charges is Best" merely upon the authority of one commission, which it must be acknowledged, arrived at this conclusion somewhat illogically. This point is significant from the fact that the Committee on Public Utility Rates of the National Association of Railroad Commissioners at a meeting of the Association in November, 1916, reported a recommendation that the yearly minimum be preferred to the monthly minimum.

But, of course, these latter considerations were not within the

purview of the book when it was submitted for the court, and it must therefore be considered rather as a general collaboration of authorities upon the subject of minimum charges than as a study or text upon this subject.

WALTER H. TIMM.

Studies in the Problem of Sovereignty. By Harold J. Laski of Harvard University. Published by Yale University Press, New Haven. 1917. Pp. x, 297.

To a reader who is not deeply versed in philosophy, a book, the first word of which is "Hegelianwise," is inclined to appear uninviting. The readers of this JOURNAL who remember Mr. Laski's article in the second number of the present volume will not be disturbed however, by the ominous beginning. Mr. Laski in this book again shows himself capable of a clear, convincing style very acceptable to his reader.

The book does not pretend to be over-original. Maitland, Dr. Figgis, and one or two other writers are often referred to; yet the book is by no means merely a synopsis of other works. It is a critical study—a review of the different theories of sovereignty. Certain periods in the development of the theory of the state are summarized and compared in a masterly manner.

The first chapter forms a basis for the discussion. The author there rejects the theory of the unity of sovereignty and accepts the pluralist view. To his mind sovereignty is not indivisible, but is composed of many distinct associations, each of which claims a share of the allegiance of citizens. He draws an analogy between sovereignty and a combination of dissimilar chemical molecules forming by their contact something different from their sum while apart. Sovereignty is not, as a distinguished jurist has said, "that which within its own sphere is absolute and uncontrolled." It is something broader. To arrive at a true conception of sovereignty we must consider not only the power of the government but also the power of the church and of the trade union over those affiliated with them.

In the second and third chapters, the revolt of the Scotch Presbyterians and the Oxford movement against government control of religious affairs are discussed. Mr. Laski shows the conflict in these instances between the monistic and the pluralistic theory of sovereignty. The same conflict is shown to be present